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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency
Third session
Geneva, 2 May 1994
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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3. Progress on implementation of trade points and the trade point programme

4. Preparations for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency

5. Consideration of guidelines on key sectors for trade efficiency: customs, transport, banking and insurance, information for trade, business practices and telecommunications

6. Other business

7. Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Board.

1/ This item will consist of the work envisaged for Workshop 2 as agreed in the work programme of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda for the third session was approved by the Ad Hoc Working Group at its plenary meeting on 19 November 1993.

In introducing the draft provisional agenda, the Chairperson of the Working Group said that its third session "would in fact comprise three elements - the third session proper, Workshop 2 as agreed in the Working Group's work programme, and the preparatory meeting for the International Symposium".

Item 2: Governments' role in trade efficiency

In the work programme of the Working Group, this item was initially envisaged for a workshop. The terms of reference read as follows:

"In this area, the Working Group will:

"(a) Study ways in which the legal, regulatory and administrative environment can be improved so as to allow greater national efficiency including a recommendation for model laws to support greater participation in global commerce using electronic techniques;

"(b) Examine how the interface between the government and private sector, on the one hand, and the regulatory aspects of sectoral linkages (e.g. banks and transport), on the other hand, can best satisfy the requirements of trade efficiency."

To facilitate the consideration of this item, the secretariat has prepared document TD/B/WG.2/12.

Item 3: Progress on implementation of trade points and the trade point programme

The secretariat will present a status report of the trade point programme, largely based on the self-evaluations provided orally by those Trade Point directors ready to do so. The specific experiences of existing Trade Points will be presented. To the largest extent possible, these presentations will be made by the Trade Point directors themselves, who will be encouraged to describe both their successes and their difficulties in establishing and running Trade Points.

Item 4: Preparations for the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency

The secretariat will describe preparations made so far and work remaining to be done. This will be followed by a general discussion.

Item 5: Consideration of guidelines on key sectors for trade efficiency: customs, transport, banking and insurance, information for trade, trade facilitation, and telecommunications

For each of the six sectors, draft guidelines will be presented, discussed and finalized for the Symposium. Those draft guidelines are contained in documents TD/B/WG.2/6/Add.1, Parts I and II and TD/B/WG.2/11, Add.1 to 5.

Item 6: Other business

Any outstanding issues will be discussed.

Item 7: Adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the Trade and Development Board

The Board will undertake the mid-term review and evaluation called for by the Cartagena Commitment (para. 68) from 25 to 27 May 1994. At its first executive session in September 1992, the Board considered that the Ad Hoc Working Groups should contribute to the mid-term review and evaluation exercise by undertaking specific reviews of their respective work programmes in the context of preparing their final reports.

III. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

For practical reasons and in order to benefit fully from the presence of Trade Point directors, the consideration of agenda item 3 will take place early in the session, i.e. Monday, 2 May. In addition, on the afternoons of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (i.e. 2-5 May), Trade Point participants will be able to participate in informal parallel meetings devoted to their specific areas of concern/interest.

As far as agenda item 5 is concerned, the following tentative schedule is suggested:

Tuesday 3 May	10.00 a.m.	Banking and insurance
	3.00 p.m.	Customs
Wednesday 4 May	10.00 a.m.	Information for trade
	3.00 p.m.	Transport
Thursday 5 May	10.00 a.m.	Telecommunications
	3.00 p.m.	Business Practices/trade facilitation

Discussion of Item 4 will start on Friday, 6 May in the morning. It is expected to resume on Monday, 9 May when the Group discusses a first draft of the Columbus Ministerial Declaration.

Item 2 will be addressed on Friday, 6 May in the afternoon.

Tuesday, 10 May would be devoted to the discussion of the Group's final report (item 7).

On Wednesday, 11 May the Group would conclude its discussion of item 5 with a consideration of revised sectoral guidelines.